OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS

Evangelization and Catechesis Toolkit

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion of Racial Justice and Reconciliation seeks to teach about and to witness to the intrinsic dignity of the human person as an antidote to the grave sin of racism. The Committee explores and implements concrete solutions to address the racism that still pervades our society and our Church today, and works in collaborative ways to strengthen the response of all people to this evil.

In 2018, the U.S. bishops shared a pastoral letter titled *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*. We invite all (arch)dioceses to share the accompanying toolkit with parishes, so that families and communities can grow together in faith, understanding, and unity.

The Pastoral Letter

Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love

Prayers

Prayer to Address the Sin of Racism
Prayer to Heal Racial Division

Invitation from Bishop Joseph Perry

An anonymous Japanese philosopher is famous for saying: "Some people are so good that nothing a leader can do will make them better. Others are so incorrigible that nothing can be done to improve them. But the great bulk of folk go with the moral tide of the moment. The leader must help create that tide!" As church leaders, administrators, and formators, we carry a large role in reshaping the face of the earth!

Educational Resources

- What is Systemic Racism? | en Español – Defines systemic racism and shares embedded policies and practices that perpetuate inequality across institutions. It highlights disparities in education, housing, employment, wealth, and criminal justice, urging Catholics to advocate for structural change.
- Racism and Economic Inequality | en Español – Explores how racism contributes to income gaps, wealth disparities, and limited access to economic opportunity. It calls for just wages, fair lending, and inclusive economic policies.
- Racism and Education | en Español – Examines unequal access to quality education, underfunded schools in communities of color, and the long-term effects of educational injustice. It encourages support for equitable learning environments.
- Racism and Employment | en Español – Addresses hiring discrimination, wage gaps, and barriers to advancement faced by people of color. The resource promotes workplace dignity and inclusive hiring practices.
- Racism and Housing | en Español – Highlights discriminatory housing policies, segregation, and unequal access to safe, affordable housing. It affirms housing as a human right and calls for fair housing advocacy.
- Racism and Migration | en Español – Reflects on how racism influences immigration policy and public attitudes toward migrants and refugees. It urges Catholics to welcome the stranger and defend human dignity.
- Racism and the Criminal Justice System | en Español – Discusses racial disparities in policing, sentencing, and incarceration. It calls for restorative justice and reform rooted in mercy and human dignity.
- Racism and the Native American Experience | en Español – Acknowledges historical and ongoing injustices faced by Native communities, including land dispossession and cultural erasure. It promotes healing, respect, and solidarity.
- Racism and Voting | en Español – Examines voter suppression and unequal access to political participation. It affirms voting as a moral responsibility and a means of promoting justice.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Learn More about the Subcommittee for the Promotion of Racial Justice and Reconciliation